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Vol. IV.] TUESDAY, JULY 14, 1778. [Numb. 504.

In CONGRESS, June 11, 1778.

A LETTER of the ninth from general Washington, incloſing a letter of the ninth to him from gen. ſir Henry Clinton, informing that the earl of Carliſle, William Eden and governor Johnſtone, three of the commiſſioners for reſtoring peace between Great Britain and America, are arrived in Philadelphia, and requeſting a paſſport for doctor Ferguſon, their ſecretary, with a letter from them to congreſs, and a copy of general Waſhington's anſwer, declining to grant a paſſport till the pleaſure of congreſs is known, was read.

Ordered, That the ſame be referred to a committee of three.

June 12. The committee to whom was referred the letter of the ninth from general Waſhington, with the papers incloſed, brought in a report, which was taken into conſideration, and, after debate,—Reſolved, That the farther conſideration thereof be poſtponed.

Saturday, June 13. Congreſs reſumed the conſideration of the report of the committee on the letter of the ninth from general Waſhington, with the papers incloſed,

During the debate an expreſs arrived with a letter of the eleventh from general Waſhington, which was read, and a packet, in which was incloſed, together with other papers, a letter ſigned "Carliſle, William Eden, George Johnſtone," dated "Philadelphia, June 9, 1778," and directed "to his excellency Henry Laurens, the preſident, and other the members of congreſs." Which letter was read to the words "inſidious interpoſition of a power, which has, from the firſt ſettlement of theſe colonies, been actuated with enmity to us both. And notwithſtanding the pretended date or preſent form of the French offers," incluſive; whereupon the reading was interrupted, and a motion was made not to proceed farther, becauſe of the offenſive language againſt his moſt chriſtian majeſty.

Debates ariſing thereon,—Ordered, that the conſideration of the motion be poſtponed. And congreſs adjourned to ten o'clock on Monday.

June 15, P. M. Congreſs reſumed the conſideration of the motion reſpecting the letter from the commiſſioners of the king of Great Britain; after debate adjourned to ten o'clock tomorrow.

June 16. Congreſs reſumed the conſideration of the motion reſpecting the letter from the commiſſioners of the king of Great Britain, which being poſtponed, a motion was made, "That the letter from the commiſſioners of the king of Great Britain lie on the table." Paſſed in the negative.

On motion, Reſolved, That the letter, and the papers accompanying it, be read Whereupon the letter of the ninth, and one dated June 1778, both ſigned "Carliſle, William Eden, George Johnſtone," and a paper endorſed "copy of the commiſſion for reſtoring peace, &c. To the earl of Carliſle, lord viſcount Howe, ſir William Howe, or, in his abſence, ſir Henry Clinton, William Eden and George Johnſtone," were read, and alſo three acts of the Britiſh parliament, one entitled "an act for repealing an act paſſed in the fourteenth year of his preſent majeſty's reign, entitled an act for the better regulating the government of the province of the Maſſachuſetts-Bay in New-England." The other two the ſame as the bills already publiſhed.—The letters are as follow:

To his excellency HENRY LAURENS, the preſident, and other the members of congreſs.

Gentlemen,

WITH an earneſt deſire to ſtop the farther effuſion of blood and the calamities of war, we communicate to you, with the leaſt poſſible delay after our arrival in this city, a copy of the commiſſion with which his majeſty is pleaſed to honour us, as alſo the acts of parliament on which it is founded. And, at the ſame time that we aſſure you of our moſt earneſt deſire to re-eſtabliſh, on the baſis of equal freedom and mutual ſafety, the tranquillity of this once happy empire, you will obſerve that we are veſted with powers equal to the purpoſe, and ſuch as are even unprecedented in the annals of our hiſtory.

"In the preſent ſtate of our affairs, though fraught with ſubjects of mutual regret, all parties may draw ſome degree of conſolation, and even auſpicious hope, from the recollection that cordial reconciliation and affection have, in our own and other empires, ſucceeded to contentions and temporary diviſions not leſs violent than thoſe we now experience.

"We wiſh not to recal ſubjects which are now no longer in controverſy, and will reſerve to a proper time of diſcuſſion, both the hopes of mutual benefit, and the conſideration of evils, that may naturally contribute to determine your reſolutions, as well as our own, on this important occaſion.

"The acts of parliament which we tranſmit to you having paſſed with ſingular unanimity, will ſufficiently evince the diſpoſition of Great-Britain, and ſhew that the terms of agreement, in contemplation with his majeſty and with parliament, are ſuch as come up to every wiſh that North America, either in the hour of temperate deliberation or of the utmoſt apprehenſion of danger to liberty, has expreſſed.

"More effectually to demonſtrate our good intentions, we think proper to declare, even in this our firſt communication, that we are diſpoſed to concur in every ſatisfactory and juſt arrangement towards the following among other purpoſes:

"To conſent to a ceſſation of hoſtilities, both by ſea and land.

"To reſtore free intercourſe, to revive mutual affection, and renew the common benefits of naturalization, through the ſeveral parts of this empire.

"To extend every freedom to trade that our reſpective intereſts can require.

"To agree that no military forces ſhall be kept up in the different ſtates of North-America, without the conſent of the general congreſs or particular aſſemblies.

"To concur in meaſures calculated to diſcharge the debts of America, and to raiſe the credit and value of the paper circulation.

"To perpetuate our union by a reciprocal deputation of an agent or agents from the different ſtates, who ſhall have the privilege of a ſeat and voice in the parliament of Great-Britain; or, if ſent from Britain, in that caſe to have a ſeat

and voice in the aſſemblies of the different ſtates to which they may be deputed reſpectively, in order to attend to the ſeveral intereſts of thoſe by whom they are deputed.

" In ſhort, to eſtabliſh the power of the reſpective legiſlatures in each particular ſtate, to ſettle its revenue, its civil and military eſtabliſhment, and to exerciſe a perfect freedom of legiſlation and internal government, ſo that the Britiſh ſtates throughout North-America, acting with us in peace and war under one common ſovereign, may have the irrevocable enjoyment of every privilege, that is ſhort of a total ſeparation of intereſts, or conſiſtent with that union of force, on which the ſafety of our common religion and liberty depends.

" In our anxiety for preſerving thoſe ſacred and eſſential intereſts, we cannot help taking notice of the inſidious interpoſition of a power, which has, from the firſt ſettlement of theſe colonies, been actuated with enmity to us both. And notwithſtanding the pretended date or preſent form of the French offers to North-America, yet it is notorious that theſe were made in conſequence of the plans of accommodation previouſly concerted in Great-Britain, and with a view to prevent our reconciliation, and to prolong this deſtructive war.

" But we truſt that the inhabitants of North-America, connected with us by the neareſt ties of conſanguinity, ſpeaking the ſame language, intereſted in the preſervation of ſimilar inſtitutions, remembering the former happy intercourſe of good offices, and forgetting recent animoſities, will ſhrink from the thought of becoming an acceſſion of force to our late mutual enemy, and will prefer a firm, a free and perpetual coalition with the parent ſtate, to an inſincere and unnatural foreign alliance.

" This deſpatch will be delivered to you by doctor Ferguſon, the ſecretary to his majeſty's commiſſion. And for farther explanation and diſcuſſion of every ſubject of difference, we deſire to meet with you, either collectively or by deputation, at New-York, Philadelphia, York Town; or ſuch other place as you may propoſe. We think it right, however, to apprize you, that his majeſty's inſtructions, as well as our own deſire to remove from the immediate ſeat of war, in the active operations of which we cannot take any part, may induce us ſpeedily to remove to New-York: But the commander in chief of his majeſty's land forces, who is joined with us in this commiſſion, will, if it ſhould become eligible, either concur with us in a ſuſpenſion of hoſtilities, or will furniſh all neceſſary paſſports and ſafe conduct to facilitate our meeting, and we ſhall of courſe expect the ſame of you.

" If, after the time that may be neceſſary to conſider this communication and tranſmit your anſwer, the horrors and devaſtations of war ſhould continue, we call God and the world to witneſs, that the evils which muſt follow are not to be imputed to Great Britain: And we cannot, without the moſt real ſorrow, anticipate the proſpect of calamities, which we feel the moſt ardent deſire to prevent. We are, with perfect reſpect, gentlemen, your moſt obedient and moſt humble ſervants,

CARLISLE,
Philadelphia, WM. EDEN,
9th June, 1778. GEO. JOHNSTONE."

To his excellency HENRY LAURENS, the preſident, and other the members of congreſs,

Gentlemen,

THE deſpatch encloſed with this was carried this morning to the neareſt poſt of general Waſhington's army by doctor Ferguſon, ſecretary to his majeſty's commiſſion for reſtoring peace, &c. but he, not finding a paſſport, has returned to this place. In order to avoid every unneceſſary delay, we now again ſend it by the ordinary conveyance of your military poſts. As ſoon as the paſſport arrives, doctor Ferguſon ſhall wait upon you according to our firſt arrangement. We are, with perfect reſpect, gentlemen, your moſt obedient and moſt humble ſervants,

CARLISLE,
Philad. June 1778. WM. EDEN,
GEO. JOHNSTONE."

GEORGE the Third, by the grace of God, of Great-Britain, France and Ireland, king, defender of the faith, &c.

TO our right truſty and right well beloved couſin and counſellor Frederick earl of Carliſle, knight of the moſt ancient order of the Thiſtle; our right truſty and well beloved couſin and counſellor Richard lord viſcount Howe, of our kingdom of Ireland; our truſty and well beloved ſir William Howe, knight of the moſt honourable order of the Bath, lieutenant-general of our forces, general and commander in chief of all and ſingular our forces employed, or to be employed, within our colonies in North-America, lying upon the Atlantic ocean, from Nova-Scotia on the north to Weſt-Florida on the ſouth, both incluſive; William Eden, eſq; one of our commiſſioners for trade and plantations; and George Johnſtone, eſq; captain in our royal navy, GREETING:

WHEREAS, in and by our commiſſion and letters patent under our great ſeal of Great-Britain, bearing date on or about the 6th day of May, in the ſixteenth year of our reign, we did, out of our earneſt deſire to deliver all our ſubjects, and every part of the dominions belonging to our crown from the calamities of war, and to reſtore them to our protection and peace, nominate and appoint our right truſty and well beloved couſin and counſellor Richard lord viſcount Howe, of our kingdom of Ireland, and our truſty and well beloved William Howe, eſq; now ſir William Howe, knight of the Bath, major general of our forces, and general of our forces in North-America only, and each of them, jointly and ſeverally, to be our commiſſioner and commiſſioners in that behalf, to ſo perform and execute all the powers and authorities in and by the ſaid commiſſion and letters patent entruſted and committed to them, and each of them, according to the tenor of ſuch letters patent, and of ſuch farther inſtructions as they ſhould from time to time receive under our ſignet or ſign manual, to have, hold, execute and enjoy the ſaid office and place, offices and places, of our commiſſioner and commiſſioners, as therein mentioned, with all rights, members and appurtenances thereunto belonging, together with all and ſingular the powers and authorities thereby granted unto them, the ſaid lord viſcount Howe and general William Howe, and each of them, for and during our will and pleaſure and no longer, in ſuch manner and form, as in and by our ſaid recited commiſſion and letters patent, relation being thereunto had, may, among divers other things therein contained, more fully and at large appear. And whereas, for the quieting and extinguiſhing of divers jealouſies and apprehenſions of danger to their liberties and rights, which have alarmed many of our ſubjects in the colonies, provinces and plantations of New Hampſhire, Maſſachuſetts Bay, Rhode Iſland, Counecticut, New York, New Jerſey, Pennſylvania, with the Three Lower Counties on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, and for a fuller manifeſtation of our juſt and gracious purpoſes and thoſe of our parliament, to maintain and ſecure all our ſubjects in the clear and perfect enjoyment of their liberties and rights, it is, in and by a certain act made and paſſed in this preſent ſeſſions of parliament, intituled

"An act to enable his majeſty to appoint commiſſioners, with ſufficient powers to treat, conſult and agree upon the means of quieting the diſorders now ſubſiſting in certain of the colonies, plantations and provinces of North America," among other things enacted, that it ſhall and may be lawful for his majeſty, from time to time, by letters patent under the great ſeal of Great-Britain, to authoriſe and empower five able and ſufficient perſons, or any three of them, to do and perform ſuch acts and things, and to uſe and execute ſuch authorities and powers as in the ſaid act are for that purpoſe mentioned, provided and created. And whereas we are earneſtly deſirous to carry into full and perfect execution the ſeveral juſt and gracious purpoſes above mentioned; Now know ye, That we have revoked and determined, and by theſe preſents do revoke and determine our ſaid recited commiſſion and letters patent, and all and every power, authority, clauſe, article and thing therein contained. And farther know ye, That we, repoſing ſpecial truſt and confidence in your wiſdom, loyalty, diligence and circumſpection in the management of the affairs to be hereby committed to your charge, have nominated and appointed, conſtituted and aſſigned, and by theſe preſents we do nominate, appoint, conſtitute and aſſign you, the ſaid Frederick earl of Carliſle, Richard viſcount Howe, ſir William Howe, William Eden, and George Johnſtone, or any three of you, to be our commiſſioners in that behalf, to uſe and exerciſe all and every the powers and authorities hereby entruſted and committed to you, the ſaid Frederick earl of Carliſle, Richard viſcount Howe, ſir William Howe, William Eden, George Johnſtone, or any three of you, and to ſo perform and execute all other matters and things hereby enjoined and committed to your care, during our will and pleaſure and no longer, according to the tenor of theſe our letters patent, and of ſuch farther inſtructions as you ſhall from time to time receive under our ſignet or ſign manual. And it is our royal will and pleaſure, and we do hereby authoriſe, empower and require you, the ſaid Frederick earl of Carliſle, Richard viſcount Howe, ſir William Howe, William Eden, George Johnſtone, or any three of you, to treat, conſult and agree with ſuch body or bodies politic and corporate, or with ſuch aſſembly or aſſemblies of men, or with ſuch perſon or perſons as you, the ſaid Frederick earl of Carliſle, Richard viſcount Howe, ſir William Howe, William Eden, George Johnſtone, or any three of you, ſhall think meet and ſufficient for that purpoſe, of and concerning any grievances, or complaints of grievances, exiſting, or ſuppoſed to exiſt, in the government of any of the colonies, provinces or plantations above mentioned reſpectively, or in the laws and ſtatutes of this realm, reſpecting them or any of them, or of and concerning any aids or contributions to be furniſhed by any of the ſaid colonies, provinces or plantations reſpectively, for the common defence of this realm, and the dominions thereunto belonging; and of and concerning any other regulations, proviſions, matters and things, neceſſary or convenient for the honor of us and our parliament, and for the common good of all our ſubjects. And it is our farther will and pleaſure, that every regulation, proviſion, matter or thing, which ſhall have been agreed upon between you, the ſaid Frederick earl of Carliſle, Richard viſcount Howe, ſir William Howe, William Eden, George Johnſtone, or any three of you, and ſuch perſons or bodies politic as aforeſaid, whom you or any three of you ſhall have judged meet and ſufficient to enter into ſuch agreement, ſhall be fully and diſtinctly ſet forth in writing, and authenticated by the hands and ſeals of you or any three of you on one ſide, and by ſuch ſeals and other ſignature on the other as the occaſion may require, and as may be ſuitable to the character and authority of the body politic or other perſon ſo agreeing; and ſuch inſtruments ſo authenticated ſhall be by you or any three of you tranſmitted to one of our principal ſecretaries of ſtate, in order to be laid before our parliament, for the farther and more perfect ratification thereof; and until ſuch ratification, no ſuch regulation, proviſion, matter or thing, ſhall have any other force or effect, or be carried farther into execution than is hereafter mentioned. And we do hereby farther authoriſe and empower you, the ſaid Frederick earl of Carliſle, Richard viſcount Howe, ſir William Howe, William Eden, and George Johnſtone, or any three of you, from time to time, as you or any three of you ſhall judge convenient, to order and proclaim a ceſſation of hoſtilities, on the part of our forces by ſea and land, for ſuch time and under ſuch conditions, reſtrictions or other qualifications, as in your diſcretions ſhall be thought requiſite, and ſuch order and proclamation to revoke and annul in the ſame manner and form.

And it is our farther will and pleaſure, and we do hereby require and command all our officers and miniſters, civil and military, and all other our loving ſubjects whatſoever, to obſerve and obey all ſuch proclamations reſpectively. And we do hereby, in farther purſuance of the ſaid act of parliament, and of the proviſions therein contained, authoriſe and empower you, the ſaid Frederick earl of Carliſle, Richard viſcount Howe, ſir W. Howe, W. Eden and George Johnſtone, or any three of you, by proclamation under your reſpective hands and ſeals, from time to time, as you ſhall ſee convenient, to ſuſpend the operation and effect of a certain act of parliament, made and paſſed in the ſixteenth year of our reign, for prohibiting all trade and intercourſe with certain colonies and plantations therein named, and for the other purpoſes therein alſo mentioned, or any of the proviſions or reſtrictions therein contained, and therein to ſpecify at what time and places reſpectively, and with what exceptions and reſtrictions, and under what paſſes and clearances, in lieu of thoſe heretofore directed by any act or acts of parliament for regulating the trade of the colonies and plantations, the ſaid ſuſpenſion ſhall take effect, and the ſaid ſuſpenſion and proclamation in the ſame manner and form to annul and revoke. And we do hereby farther authoriſe and empower you, the ſaid Frederick earl of Carliſle, Richard viſcount Howe, ſir William Howe, William Eden and George Johnſtone, or any three of you, from time to time, as you ſhall judge convenient, to ſuſpend in any places, and for any time during the continuance of the ſaid firſt recited act, the operation and effect of any act or acts of parliament which have paſſed ſince the tenth day of February, 1763, and which relate to any of our colonies, provinces or plantations above mentioned in North America, ſo far as the ſame relate to them, or any of them, or the operation and effect of any clauſe, or any proviſion or other matter in ſuch acts contained, ſo far as ſuch clauſes, proviſions or matters, relate to any of the ſaid colonies, provinces, or plantations. And we do hereby farther authoriſe and empower you the ſaid Frederick earl of Carliſle, Richard viſcount Howe, ſir William Howe, William Eden and George Johnſtone, or any three of you, to grant a pardon or pardons to any number or deſcription of perſons within the ſaid colonies, provinces or plantations. And we do hereby farther authoriſe and empower you the ſaid Frederick earl of Carliſle, Richard viſcount Howe, ſir William Howe, William Eden and George Johnſtone, or any three of you, in any of our colonies, provinces, or plantations aforeſaid reſpectively, wherein we have uſually heretofore nominated and appointed a governor, to nominate and appoint from time to time, by any inſtrument under your hands and

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ſeals, or the hands and ſeals of any three of you, a proper perſon, to be the governor and commander in chief in and for ſuch colony, province or plantation reſpectively, to have, hold and exerciſe the ſaid office of governor and commander in chief in and for ſuch colony, province or plantation reſpectively, with all ſuch powers and authorities as any governor of ſuch province, heretofore appointed by us, might or could have exerciſed, in as full and ample manner and form as if ſuch governor and commander in chief had been nominated and appointed by our letters patent or commiſſion; and for that purpoſe, if need be, to revoke, annul and make void any commiſſion or letters patent heretofore granted, for appointing any ſuch governor and commander in chief.

Whereas, by certain letters patent under our great ſeal, bearing date on the twenty-ninth day of April, in the ſixteenth year of our reign, we have conſtituted and appointed you, the ſaid ſir William Howe, to be general and commander in chief of all and ſingular our forces employed, or to be employed, within our colonies in North America, lying upon the Atlantic ocean, from Nova Scotia on the north to Weſt Florida on the ſouth, both incluſive, to have, hold, exercite and enjoy the ſaid office during our will and pleaſure; and in caſe you, the ſaid ſir William Howe, ſhould, by death, or any other manner, be diſabled from exerciſing the ſaid command, it was our will and pleaſure, therein expreſſed, that the ſame, with all authorities, rights and privileges, contained in that our ſaid commiſſion, ſhould devolve on ſuch officer, bearing our commiſſion, as ſhould be next in rank to you, the ſaid ſir William Howe: And whereas our truſty and well beloved ſir Henry Clinton, knight of the moſt honorable order of the Bath, lieut. gen. of our forces, and general of our forces in our army in America only, now actually bears our commiſſion, and is next in rank to you, the ſaid ſir William Howe: Know it is our farther will and pleaſure, and we do hereby ordain and appoint, that whenever the ſaid command in the ſaid letters patent mentioned ſhall, in purſuance thereof, devolve upon the ſaid ſir Henry Clinton, all and every the powers and authorities hereby entruſted and committed to you the ſaid ſir William Howe, ſhall forthwith ceaſe and determine, and the ſaid powers and authorities, and every of them, ſhall from thenceforth be entruſted and committed, and are hereby entruſted and committed to the ſaid ſir Henry Clinton, to uſe and exerciſe the ſame powers and authorities, and to perform and execute all other the matters and things as aforeſaid, in as full and ample extent and form, and no other, as you, the ſaid ſir William Howe, are hereby authoriſed to uſe and exerciſe, do perform and execute the ſame. And we do hereby require and command all the officers, civil and military, and all other our loving ſubjects whatſoever, to be aiding and aſſiſting unto you, the ſaid Frederick earl of Carliſle, Richard viſcount Howe, ſir William Howe, William Eden and George Johnſtone, in the execution of this our commiſſion, and of the powers and authorities herein contained. Provided always, and we do hereby declare and ordain, that the ſeveral offices, powers and authorities hereby granted ſhall ceaſe, determine, and become utterly null and void on the firſt day of June, which ſhall be in the year of our Lord 1779, although we ſhall not otherwiſe in the mean time have revoked and determined the ſame. In witneſs whereof, we have cauſed theſe our letters to be made patent. Witneſs ourſelf, at Weſtminſter, the thirteenth day of April, in the eighteenth year of our reign.

By the king himſelf. YORKE.

A true copy, ADAM FERGUSON, ſec.

Ordered, That they be referred to a committee of five.

Eodem Die, P. M. The committee to whom were referred the letters and papers from the earl of Carliſle, &c. commiſſioners from the king of Great-Britain, reported the draught of a letter, which was read.

Reſolved, That the conſideration thereof be poſtponed till tomorrow.

June 17, 1778.

Congreſs reſumed the conſideration of the draught of the letter, in anſwer to the letter and papers received from the earl of Carliſle, &c. commiſſioners from the king of Great Britain, which was unanimouſly agreed to, and is as follows:

To their excellencies the right hon. the earl of CARLISLE, WILLIAM EDEN, eſq; GEORGE JOHNSTONE, eſq; commiſſioners from his Britannic majeſty, Philadelphia.

I HAVE received the letter from your excellencies of the ninth inſtant, with the encloſures, and laid them before congreſs. Nothing but an earneſt deſire to ſpare the farther effuſion of human blood could have induced them to read a paper, containing expreſſions ſo diſreſpectful to his moſt Chriſtian majeſty, the good and great ally of theſe ſtates; or to conſider propoſitions ſo derogatory to the honor of an independent nation.

"The acts of the Britiſh parliament, the commiſſion from your ſovereign, and your letter, ſuppoſe the people of theſe ſtates to be ſubjects of the crown of Great Britain, and are founded on the idea of dependence, which is utterly inadmiſſible.

"I am farther directed to inform your excellencies, that congreſs are inclined to peace, notwithſtanding the unjuſt claims from which this war originated, and the ſavage manner in which it hath been conducted. They will therefore be ready to enter upon the conſideration of a treaty of peace and commerce, not inconſiſtent with treaties already ſubſiſting, when the king of Great-Britain ſhall demonſtrate a ſincere diſpoſition for that purpoſe. The only ſolid proof of this diſpoſition will be, an explicit acknowledgment of the independence of theſe ſtates, or the withdrawing his fleets and armies. I have the honor to be your excellencies moſt obedient and humble ſervant.

Signed by order of the unanimous vote of congreſs.

HENRY LAURENS, preſident.

York-Town, June 17, 1778.

Reſolved unanimouſly, That congreſs approve the conduct of general Waſhington in refuſing a paſſport to doctor Ferguſon.

Publiſhed by order of Congreſs.

CHARLES THOMSON, ſecretary.

To the earl of CARLISLE, lord viſcount HOWE, ſir WILLIAM HOWE (or in his abſence ſir HENRY CLINTON) WILLIAM EDEN and GEORGE JOHNSTONE.

Truſty and well beloved ſervants of your ſacred maſter, in whom he is well pleaſed.

AS you are ſent to America for the expreſs purpoſe of treating with any body and any thing, you will pardon an addreſs from one, who diſdains to flatter thoſe whom he loves. Should you therefore deign to read this addreſs, your chaſte ears will not be offended with the language of adulation, a language you deſpiſe.

I have ſeen your moſt elegant and moſt excellent letter "to his excellency Henry Laurens, the preſident, and other the members of congreſs." As that body hath thought your propoſitions unworthy their particular regard, it may be ſome ſatisfaction to your curioſity, and tend to appeaſe the offended ſpirit of negociation, if one out of the many individuals on this great continent ſhould ſpeak to you the ſentiments of America. Sentiments which your own good ſenſe hath doubtleſs ſuggeſted, and which are repeated only to convince you that, notwithſtanding the narrow ground of private

information on which we ſtand in this diſtant region, ſtill a knowledge of our own rights, and attention to our own intereſts, and a ſacred reſpect for the dignity of human nature, have given us to underſtand the true principles which ought, and which therefore ſhall, ſway our conduct.

You begin with the amiable expreſſions of humanity, the earneſt deſire of tranquillity and peace. A better introduction to Americans could not be deviſed. For the ſake of the latter, we once laid our liberties at the feet of your prince, and even your armies have not eradicated the former from our boſoms.

You tell us you have powers unprecedented in the annals of your hiſtory. And England, unhappy England, will remember with deep contrition, that theſe powers have been rendered of no avail by a conduct unprecedented in the annals of mankind. Had your royal maſter condeſcended to liſten to the prayer of millions, he had not thus have ſent you. Had moderation ſwayed what we were proud to call our mother country, "her full blown dignity would not have broken under her."

You tell us that "all parties may draw ſome degree of conſolation, and even auſpicious hope, from recollection." We wiſh this moſt ſincerely for the ſake of all parties. America, even in the moment of ſubjugation, would have been conſoled by conſcious virtue, and her hope was and is in the juſtice of her cauſe, and the juſtice of the Almighty. Theſe are ſources of hope and of conſolation, which neither time nor chance can alter or take away.

You mention "the mutual benefits and conſideration of evils that may naturally contribute to determine our reſolutions." As to the former, you know too well that we could derive no benefit from an union with you, nor will I, by deducing the reaſons to evince this, caſt an inſult upon your underſtandings. As to the latter, it were to be wiſhed you had preſerved a line of conduct equal to the delicacy of your feelings. You could not but know that men, who ſincerely love freedom, diſdain the conſideration of all evils neceſſary to attain it. Had not your own hearts borne teſtimony to this truth, you might have learnt it from the annals of your hiſtory. For in thoſe annals inſtances of this kind at leaſt are not unprecedented. But ſhould thoſe inſtances be inſufficient, we pray you to read the unconquered mind of America.

That the acts of parliament you tranſmitted were paſſed with ſingular unanimity, we pretend not to doubt. You will pardon me, gentlemen, for obſerving, that the reaſons of that unanimity are ſtrongly marked in the report of a committee of congreſs, agreed to on the twenty-ſecond of April laſt, and referred to in a late letter from congreſs to lord viſcount Howe and ſir Henry Clinton.

You tell us you are willing "to conſent to a ceſſation of hoſtilities, both by ſea and land." It is difficult for rude Americans to determine whether you are ſerious in this propoſition, or whether you mean to jeſt with their ſimplicity. Upon a ſuppoſition, however, that you have too much magnanimity to divert yourſelves on an occaſion of ſuch importance to America, and perhaps not very trivial in the eyes of thoſe who ſent you, permit me to aſſure you on the ſacred word of a gentleman, that if you ſhall tranſport your troops to England, where before long your prince will certainly want their aſſiſtance, we never ſhall follow them thither. We are not ſo romantically fond of fighting, neither have we ſuch regard for the city of London, as to commence a cruſade for the poſſeſſion of that Holy Land. Thus you may be certain that hoſtilities will ceaſe by land. It would be doing ſingular injuſtice to your national character, to ſuppoſe you are deſirous of a like ceſſation by ſea. The courſe of the war, and the very flouriſhing ſtate of your commerce, notwithſtanding our weak efforts to interrupt it, clearly ſhew that you can exclude us form the ſea. *The ſea your kingdom.*

You offer "to reſtore free intercourſe, to revive mutual affection, and renew the common benefits of naturalizatio n." Whenever your countrymen ſhall be taught wiſdom by experience, and learn from paſt misfortunes to purſue their true intereſts in future, we ſhall readily admit every intercourſe which is neceſſary for the purpoſes of commerce, and uſual between different nations. To revive *mutual* affection is utterly impobſſible. We freely forgive you, but it is not in nature that you ſhould forgive us. You have injured us too much. We might, on this occaſion, give you ſome late inſtances of ſingular barbarity, committed as well by the forces of his Britannic majeſty, as by thoſe of his generous and faithful allies, the Senecas, Onandagas and Tuſcaroras. But we will not offend a courtly ear by the recital of thoſe diſguſting ſcenes. Beſides this, it might give pain to that humanity which hath, as you obſerve, prompted your overtures to dwell upon the ſplendid victories obtained by a licentious ſoldiery over unarmed men in defenceleſs villages, their wanton devaſtations, their deliberate murders, or to inſpect thoſe ſcenes of carnage painted by the wild exceſſes of ſavage rage. Theſe amiable traits of national conduct cannot but revive in our boſoms that partial affection we once felt for every thing which bore the name of Engliſhman. As to the common benefits of naturalization, it is a matter we conceive to be of the moſt ſovereign indifference. A few of our wealthy citizens may hereafter viſit England and Rome, to ſee the ruins of thoſe auguſt temples, in which the goddeſs of liberty was once adored. Theſe will hardly claim naturalization, in either of thoſe places as a *benefit*. On the other hand ſuch of your ſubjects as ſhall be driven by the iron hand of oppreſſion to ſeek for refuge among thoſe whom they now perſecute, will certainly be admitted to *the benefits of naturalization*. We labour to rear an aſylum for mankind, and regret that circumſtances will not permit you, gentlemen, to contribute to a deſign ſo very agreeable to your ſeveral tempers and diſpoſitions.

But farther, your excellencies ſay, "we will concur to extend every freedom to trade that our reſpective intereſts can require." Unfortunately there is a little difference in theſe intereſts, which you might not have found it very eaſy to reconcile, had the congreſs been diſpoſed to riſque their heads by liſtening to terms, which I have the honor to aſſure you are treated with ineffable contempt by every honeſt Whig in America. The difference I allude to is, that it is your intereſt to monopolize our commerce, and it is our intereſt to trade with all the world. There is indeed a method of cutting this Gordian knot, which perhaps no ſtateſman is acute enough to untie. By reſerving to the parliament of Great Britain the right of determining what our reſpective intereſts require, they might extend the freedom of trade, or circumſcribe it, at their pleaſure, for what they might call our *reſpective intereſts*. But I truſt it would not be to our *mutual ſatisfaction*. Your "earneſt deſire to ſtop the farther effuſion of blood, and the calamities of war," will therefore lead you, on maturer reflection, to reprobate a plan teeming with diſcord, and which, in the ſpace of twenty years, would produce another wild expedition acroſs the Atlantic, and in a few years more ſome ſuch commiſſion as that "with which his majeſty hath been pleaſed to honor you."

We cannot but admire the generoſity of ſoul which prompts you "to agree that no military force ſhall be kept up in the different ſtates of North America, without the general conſent of the general congreſs or particular aſſemblies." The

only grateful return we can make for this exemplary condeſcenſion is to aſſure your excellencies, and on behalf of my countrymen, I do moſt ſolemnly promiſe and aſſure you, that no military force ſhall be kept up in the different ſtates of North-America, without the conſent of the general congreſs, and that of the legiſlatures of thoſe ſtates. You will therefore cauſe the forces of your royal maſter to be removed, for I can venture to aſſure you that the congreſs have not conſented, and probably will not conſent, that they be kept up.

You have alſo made the unſolicited offer of concurring " in meaſures calculated to diſcharge the debts of America, and to raiſe the credit and value of the paper circulation." If your excellencies mean by this to apply for offices in the department of our finance, I am to aſſure you (which I do with " perfect reſpect") that it will be neceſſary to procure very ample recommendations. For as the Engliſh have not yet purſued meaſures to diſcharge their own debts, and raiſe the credit and value of their own paper circulation, but, on the contrary, are in a fair way to encreaſe the one and abſolutely deſtroy the other, you will inſtantly perceive that financiers from that nation would preſent themſelves with the moſt aukward grace imaginable.

You propoſe to us a device " to perpetuate our union." It might not be amiſs previouſly to eſtabliſh this union, which may be done by your acceptance of the treaty of peace and commerce tendered to you by congreſs. And ſuch treaty, I can venture to ſay, would continue as long as your miniſters could prevail upon themſelves not to violate the faith of nations.

You offer, to uſe your own language, the inaccuracy of which, conſidering the importance of the ſubject, is not to be wondered at, or at leaſt may be excuſed, " in ſhort to " eſtabliſh the power of the reſpective legiſlatures in each " ſtate, to ſettle its revenue, its civil and military eſtabliſh- " ment, and to exerciſe a perfect freedom of legiſlation and " internal government, ſo that the Britiſh ſtates throughout " North-America acting with us, in peace and war, under " one common ſovereign, may have the irrevokable enjoy- " ment of every privilege that is ſhort of a total ſeparation " of intereſt, or conſiſtent with that union of force on which " the ſafety of our common religion and liberty depends." Let me aſſure you, gentlemen, that the power of the reſpective legiſlatures in each particular ſtate is already moſt fully eſtabliſhed, and on the moſt ſolid foundations. It is eſtabliſhed on the perfect freedom of legiſlation, and a vigorous adminiſtration of internal government. As to the ſettlement of the revenue, and the civil and military eſtabliſhment, theſe are the work of the day, for which the ſeveral legiſlatures are fully competent. I have alſo the pleaſure to congratulate your excellencies, that the country, for the ſettlement of whoſe government, revenue, adminiſtration, and the like, you have expoſed yourſelves to the fatigues and hazards of a diſagreeable voyage, and more diſagreeable negotiation, hath abundant reſources wherewith to defend her liberties now, and pour forth the rich ſtream of revenue hereafter. As the ſtates of North-America mean to poſſeſs the *irrevokable* enjoyment of their privileges, it is abſolutely neceſſary for them to decline all connection with a parliament, who, even in the laws under which you act, reſerve in expreſs terms the power of *revoking* every propoſition which you may agree to. We have a due ſenſe of the kind offer you make, to grant us a ſhare in your ſovereign, but really, gentlemen, we have not the leaſt inclination to accept of it. He may ſuit you extremely well, but he is not to our taſte. You are ſolicitous to prevent a total ſeparation of intereſts, and this, after all, ſeems to be the giſt of the buſineſs. To make you as eaſy as poſſible on this ſubject, I have to obſerve, that it may and probably will, in ſome inſtances, be our intereſt to aſſiſt you, and then we certainly ſhall. Where this is not the caſe, your excellencies have doubtleſs too much good ſenſe as well as good nature to require it. We cannot perceive that our liberty does in the leaſt depend upon any union of force with you; for we find that, after you have exerted your force againſt us for upwards of three years, we are now upon the point of eſtabliſhing our liberties in direct oppoſition to it. Neither can we conceive that, after the experiment you have made, any nation in Europe will embark in ſo unpromiſing a ſcheme as the ſubjugation of America. It is not neceſſary that every body ſhould play the Quixotte. One is enough to entertain a generation at leaſt. Your excellencies will, I hope, excuſe me when I differ from you, as to our having a religion in common with you: The religion of America is the religion of all mankind. Any perſon may worſhip in the manner he thinks moſt agreeable to the deity; and if he behaves as a good citizen, no one concerns himſelf as to his faith or adorations, neither have we the leaſt ſolicitude to exalt any one ſect or profeſſion above another.

I am extremely ſorry to find in your letter ſome ſentences, which reflect upon the character of his moſt Chriſtian majeſty. It certainly is not kind, or conſiſtent with the principles of philanthropy you profeſs, to traduce a gentleman's character without affording him an opportunity of defending himſelf; and that too a near neighbour, and not long ſince an intimate brother, who beſides hath lately given you the moſt ſolid additional proofs of his pacific diſpoſition, and with an unparalleled ſincerity, which would do honor to other princes, declared to our court, unaſked, the nature and effect of a treaty he had juſt entered into with theſe ſtates. Neither is it quite according to the rules of politeneſs to uſe ſuch terms in addreſſing yourſelves to congreſs, when you well knew that he was their good and faithful ally. It is indeed true, as you juſtly obſerve, that he hath at times been at enmity with his Britannic majeſty, by which we ſuffered ſome inconveniencies; but theſe flowed rather from our connection with you than any ill-will towards us; at the ſame time it is a ſolemn truth, worthy of your ſerious attention, that you did not commence the preſent war, a war in which we have ſuffered infinitely more than by any former conteſt, a fierce, a bloody, I am ſorry to add, an unprovoked and cruel war. That you did not commence this, I ſay, becauſe of any connection between us and our preſent ally; but, on the contrary, as ſoon as you perceived that the treaty was in agitation, propoſed terms of peace to us in conſequence of what you have been pleaſed to denominate an inſidious interpoſition. How then does the account ſtand between us. America, being at peace with all the world, was formerly drawn into a war with France, in conſequence of her union with Great-Britain. At preſent America, being engaged in a war with Great-Britain, will probably obtain the moſt honourable terms of peace, in conſequence of her friendly connection with France. For the truth of theſe poſitions I appeal, gentlemen, to your own knowledge. I know it is very hard for you to part with what you have accuſtomed yourſelves, from your earlieſt infancy, to call your colonies. I pity your ſituation, and therefore I excuſe the little aberrations from truth which your letter contains. At the ſame time it is poſſible that you may have been miſinformed. For I will not ſuppoſe that your letter was intended to delude the people of theſe ſtates. Such unmanly diſingenuous artifices have of late been exerted with ſo little effect, that prudence, if not probity, would prevent a repetition. To undeceive you, therefore, I take the liber-

ty of assuring your excellencies, from the very best intelligence, that what you call "the present form of the French offers to North America," in other words the treaties of alliance and commerce between his most christian majesty and these states, were not made in consequence of any plans of accommodation concerted in Great Britain, nor with a view to prolong this destructive war. If you consider that these treaties were actually concluded before the draught of the bills, under which you act, was sent for America, and that much time must necessarily have been consumed in adjusting compacts of such intricacy and importance; and farther, if you consider the early notification of this treaty by the court of France, and the assurance given that America had reserved a right of admitting even you to a similar treaty, you must be convinced of the truth of my assertions. The fact is, that when the British minister perceived that we were in treaty with the greatest prince in Europe, he applied himself immediately to counteract the effect of these negotiations. And this leads me, with infinite regret, to make some observations, which may possibly be by you considered in an offensive point of view.

It seems to me, gentlemen, there is something (excuse the word) *disingenuous* in your procedure. I put the supposition that congress had acceded to your propositions, and then I ask two questions. Had you full power from your commission to make these propositions? Possibly you did not think it worth while to consider your commission, but we Americans are apt to compare things together, and to reason. The second question I ask is, what security could you give that the British parliament would ratify your compacts? You can give no such security, and therefore we should, after forfeiting our reputation as a people, after you had filched from us our good name, and persuaded us to give to the common enemy of man the precious jewel of our liberties; after all this, I say, we should have been at the mercy of a parliament, which, to say no more of it, has not treated us with too great tenderness. It is quite needless to add, that even if that parliament had ratified the conditions you proposed, still poor America was to lie at the mercy of any future parliament, or appeal to the sword, which certainly is not the most pleasant business men can be engaged in.

For your use I subjoin the following creed of every good American. I believe that in every kingdom, state or empire, there must be, from the necessity of the thing, one supreme legislative power, with authority to bind every part in all cases, the proper objects of human laws. I believe that to be bound by laws, to which he does not consent by himself or his representative, is the direct definition of a slave. I do therefore believe, that a dependence on Great-Britain, however the same may be limited or qualified, is utterly inconsistent with every idea of liberty, for the defence of which I have solemnly pledged my life and fortune to my countrymen; and this engagement I will sacredly adhere to so long as I shall live. Amen.

Now if you will take the poor advice of one, who is really a friend to England and Englishmen, and who hath even some Scotch blood in his veins, away with your fleets and armies, acknowledge the independence of America, and as ambassadors, and not commissioners, solicit a treaty of peace, amity, commerce and alliance with the rising stars of this western world. Your nation totters on the brink of a stupendous precipice, and even delay will ruin her.

You have told the congress, "If, after the time that may "be necessary to consider this communication, and transmit "your answer, the horrors and devastations of war should "continue, we call God and the world to witness that the "evils, which must follow, are not to be imputed to Great-Britain." I wish you had spared your protestation. Matters of this kind may appear to you in a trivial light, as mere ornamental flowers of rhetoric, but they are serious things, registered in the high chancery of heaven. Remember the awful abuse of words like these by gen. Burgoyne, and remember his fate. There is one above us, who will take exemplary vengeance for every insult upon his majesty. You know that the cause of America is just. You know that she contends for that freedom, to which all men are entitled. That she contends against oppression, rapine, and more than savage barbarity. The blood of the innocent is upon your hands, and all the waters of the ocean will not wash it away. We again make our solemn appeal to the God of Heaven to decide between you and us. And we pray that in the doubtful scale of battle we may be successful, as we have justice on our side, and that the merciful Saviour of the world may forgive our oppressors. I am, my lords and gentlemen, the friend of human nature, and one who glories in the title of

AN AMERICAN.

Philadelphia, July 9, 1778.

TO be SOLD, at PUBLIC VENDUE, on Wednesday the fifteenth inst. at six o'clock in the afternoon, at Samuel Cooper's in Jersey, opposite this city, the sloop CHARMING SALLY, with her materials, now lying at col. Knox's wharf, as per inventory to be seen at the coffeehouse.

N. B. A law now existing in this state prevents the sale at the coffeehouse.

RAN away from the subscriber, about ten months ago, a Negro fellow named DICK, about fifty years of age, lame in his body, near five feet high, and is supposed to have gone lately up the Reading road. Whoever apprehends said Negro, so that his master gets him again, shall have THREE POUNDS reward, and reasonable charges.

July 8. ROBERT TURNER, Market-street wharf.

ON Sunday last in the morning there was STOLEN from a gentleman's house in Third street, five large silver M table spoons marked A W, five silver tea spoons marked M-W, and a silver pap spoon marked I. W. It is hoped that any person to whom they may be offered for sale, will return the spoons, and endeavour to detect the thief. The printer will pay a reward of TEN SHILLINGS for each large spoon, and five shillings for each small spoon that shall be delivered to him. June 23.

TOMORROW at ten o'clock in the morning, will be sold at public vendue, by John Ross, vendue cryer, at the late dwelling house of the widow KEARSLEY, deceased, a variety of HOUSEHOLD and KITCHEN FURNITURE, consisting of a complete set of tea china, dishes, a mahogany Pembroke tea table, an air pump complete, a priming glass, an day clock, feather beds, looking glasses, brass and iron andirons, shovels and tongs. Money to be paid at the sale.

N. B. John Ross, vendue cryer in Third-street, three doors above the King of Prussia, has returned from Bordentown to his dwelling house where he formerly lived, and continues to receive and sell on commission, by private sale or public vendue, all sorts of goods. Those who please to favor him with the disposal of their goods, will have strictest justice and punctuality done them. July 14.

ALL persons are forbid to trust Francis my wife, as I will pay no debts of her contracting from the date hereof. JOHN KNOX.

Southwark, July 13, 1778.

*** This paper will be publiſhed in future at the rate of five ſhillings the month, the money to be paid down at the time of ſubſcribing. The advanced price and ſcarcity of paper, as well as many other neceſſary articles, render this meaſure indiſpenſable. And as the ſubſcription is propoſed to be monthly, it will be very eaſy to alter the price when things are reduced to their old ſtandard, which muſt be the caſe in a ſhort time.

As the printer's kind cuſtomers chearfully acquieſced when he was formerly obliged to raiſe his ſubſcription, he now flatters himſelf with their countenance and ſupport, which they may depend upon his utmoſt exertion to merit.

Thoſe ladies, gentlemen, and others, indebted to him, are deſired to ſettle their accounts.

July 8. BEN. TOWNE.

A FEW hogſheads of excellent OLD SPIRIT to be SOLD in Front-ſtreet, a few doors above Walnut-ſtreet, by W. M'CULLOCH.

TO be SOLD, the time of a SERVANT BOY who has near three years to ſerve, is capable of taking care of horſes, and doing moſt kinds of houſe work. He is ſold for want of employ. Inquire of the printer.

☞ Alſo a neat RIDING CHAIR, almoſt new, and harneſs complete.

JUST imported, and to be ſold by JAMES VAN UXEM, at Mr. Joſeph Snewell's ſtores in Water-ſtreet, between Market and Arch ſtreets, Jamaica ſpirits oil proof, brown ſugars, coffee, molaſſes, claret, and French brandy. Alſo linens, printed linen, and other articles.

LEFT in Adam Erben's houſe in Front-ſtreet, between Arbuncle's-row and Vine-ſtreet, a CHAIR HARNESS and CUSHION, two walnut chairs with leather bottoms, and a mahogany chair. The owner, proving property, and paying charges, may have them again.—The officers of the Britiſh Tenth regiment had their meſs in the above houſe.

TWO COLTS, one a mare, the other a horſe, were taken up in the meadow belonging to Joſeph Turner, jun. The owner, proving property and paying charges, may have them again. July 2.

Bourdeaux, April 4. On the firſt of this month an American frigate, of twenty-four guns, from Boſton, arrived in our port, and brought in an Engliſh prize which ſhe had taken on her paſſage, valued at twenty-four thouſand pounds ſterling. On the day of her arrival, the honorable John Adams, eſq; landed, and after being received and entertained by our principal merchants, he yeſterday ſet out for Paris.

Fourteen Britiſh ſhips are now ſtopped in this port, and faſtened to our key.

BALTIMORE July 7. Capt. Fauntleroy, of Virginia, was ſlain in the battle of Monmouth.

On Friday evening laſt died in this town much lamented by his relatives and the public, the ingenious and amiable St. George Peale, eſq;—His remains were the next day interred with great and deſerved marks of diſtinction and reſpect.

BOSTON, July 2. Thurſday laſt the general aſſembly of this ſtate was prorogued to the firſt Wedneſday in Sept. next, then to meet at the meetinghouſe in Watertown.

July 2. We are well informed that the marine court martial now ſitting in this harbour, have honourably acquitted capt. Manly, and recommended him to congreſs as a ſpirited and brave officer. Said court have unanimouſly adjudged Hector M'Neil, Eſq; to be diſmiſſed from the ſervice of the united ſtates of America; and that he be declared incapable hereafter of holding any office in the navy of ſaid ſtates.

Laſt Thurſday capt. Thompſon's trial began at the ſame court, who commanded the Rawleigh at the capture of the Alfred. In our accounts laſt week from the ſoutward, we mentioned that capt. Barry was on his way here to take the command of the Rawleigh; this gentleman has ſince arrived, to enter, we hear, on that command.

PHILADELPHIA.

Early laſt Sunday afternoon his excellency monſieur GERARD, ambaſſador from his moſt chriſtian majeſty to the united ſtates, arrived in this city. He was accompanied from Cheſter to an elegant apartment provided for him in Market ſtreet, by a committee of congreſs appointed for that purpoſe. On his entrance into the city he was ſaluted by col. Proctor's artillery. It is impoſſible to deſcribe the joy that appeared in every good man's countenance upon this auſpicious event. The frigate which brought his excellency to Cheſter, is one of a French fleet of twelve ſhips of the line and ſeveral frigates, from Toulon, under command of the count d'Eſtaing, which arrived laſt week off Chincoteague in Virginia, and being furniſhed with pilots at that place, were, we hear, to proceed to Sandy-Hook, from whence we hourly expect to hear the moſt important intelligence.

The hon. Mr. Dean, our late worthy plenipotentiary at the court of France, arrived in the ſame frigate with his excellency the French ambaſſador, and accompanied him to the city.

Who would have thought, ſays a correſpondent, that the American colonies imperfectly known in Europe a few years ago, and claimed by every pettyfogging lawyer in the houſe of commons, and every cobler in the beer houſes of London, as a part of their property, ſhould in the courſe of three years of a war with Great-Britain, receive an ambaſſador from the moſt powerful monarchy in Europe?

Mr. Butler formerly an Indian agent, under Sir William Johnſon, with a conſiderable force, conſiſting of regular troops and Indians, have made an attack on the ſettlement at Wioming, and have done ſome miſchief; the particulars are not yet come to hand, but there is reaſon to fear, that if immediate and effectual meaſures are not taken to ſtop the progreſs of this invaſion, it will be attended with very ſerious and diſtreſſing conſequences. Congreſs have it under their conſideration.

AN HARMONICA is in the houſe of Mr. BARRON, Southwark, where it remains for a proper owner.

JAMES CLARK continues to DYE ſilks, cloths, jeans, and fuſtians, &c. alſo thread and yarn blue, &c. Likewiſe cleans mens clothes, the whole done with expedition and care. Work taken in at his houſe in Second-ſtreet, between Cheſnut and Market ſtreets, and at his dye-houſe in Water-ſtreet, between Walnut and Cheſnut ſtreets.

PHILADELPHIA: Printed by BENJAMIN TOWNE.

The PENNSYLVANIA EVENING POST.

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Vol. IV.] TUESDAY, JULY 21, 1778. [Numb. 507.

THE LOAN OFFICE is opened next door to the Indian Queen in Fourth-ſtreet, near the corner of Market-ſtreet, where conſtant attendance is given by Thomas Smith, C. L. O.

Port of Philadelphia, Pennſylvania, ſſ. } To ALL whom it may concern.

NOTICE is hereby given, That a court of admiralty will be held at the ſtate-houſe, in the city of Philadelphia, on Monday the tenth day of Auguſt next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, then and there to try the truth of the facts alledged in the bill of John Rice (who as well, &c.) againſt the ſchooner or veſſel called the Lord Drummond, burthen about twenty-five tons, her tackle, apparel, furniture, and cargo, lately commanded by Joſeph Adams: To the end and intent that the owner or owners thereof, or any perſon concerned therein, may appear and ſhew cauſe, if any they have, why the ſame ſhould not be condemned according to the prayer of the ſaid bill. By order of the judge,

July 18. ANDREW ROBESON, reg.

A Genteel family COACH to be ſold. Inquire of the printer. July 21.

JUST opening for SALE, at the old city vendue ſtore in Front-ſtreet, a general aſſortment of DRY GOODS, conſiſting of ſuperfine and middling broadcloths of all colours, coatings, red, yellow, and white flannels, calicoes, chintz and cottons, moreens, Iriſh linens, Ruſſia and other ſheetings, ravens duck, diaper, Britannias, cambricks and lawns, checks, fuſtians, pluſh, muſlins, Damaſcus, ginger, cambletes and cambletees ſtriped and plain, calimancoes, ſhalloons, druggets, hairbines, grograms, moreens, mens and womens white and brown thread and cotton hoſe, Barcelona, Romall, check, and other handkerchiefs; ſtriped and plain ſilk gauze, catguts, ell wide Perſians, bed ticks, ſkelleton wire, mens and womens gloves, writing paper, ink powder, ſealing wax, wafers, quills, &c. &c. &c. With a neat aſſortment of hardware. July 21.

TO be ſold by ANDREW TYBOUT, at his houſe in Cheſnut-ſtreet, a few pipes of Coniack brandy of an excellent quality, bohea tea, Jamaica ſpirits, Muſcovado ſugars, needles, packet pins, an aſſortment of mens and youths pumps and ſhoes, deer ſkins, &c. July 21.

JUST come to hand, and to be ſold by JOHN LABOYTEAUX in Second-ſtreet, between Arch and Market ſtreets, a ſmall aſſortment of elegant looking glaſſes, pictures, china bowls, plates, and Turennes; paper ſnuff boxes, diſſected maps of different parts of the world, and a few boxes of ſhells with limners colours.

All perſons indebted to him by bond, note, or book, are deſired to ſettle their accounts; and thoſe to whom he is indebted, to call for payment. July 21.

IF JOHN HIGGINS, late teacher of the mathematics in the county of Albany, will apply to colonel Thomas Proctor of artillery, at Philadelphia, or elſewhere, he may hear of ſomething greatly to his advantage. July 18.

TO be SOLD, a complete ſet of SALT WORKS at Great Egg harbour, conſiſting of four large PANS and ſeveral KETTLES, ſuppoſed to contain three or four thouſand gallons, together with the buildings, ſalt-houſe, drying-houſe, dwelling houſe, and ſtables; a team of horſes, an ox ditto, and two milch cows. The whole will be ſold together or ſeparate, as will beſt ſuit the purchaſer. Any perſon inclining to purchaſe, may apply to FRAZER KINSLEY, at Great Egg-Harbour, or to PETER JANUARY in Philadelphia. July 21.

BENJAMIN JANUARY, BOOKBINDER and STATIONER, begs leave to inform his friends and the public in general, that he carries on his buſineſs as uſual, next door to Benjamin Towne's printing office in Front-ſtreet, near Market-ſtreet, where merchants, ſhopkeepers, and others, may be ſupplied with account books made and ruled to any pattern. He alſo has for ſale the following books and ſtationery, viz. Beauties of the Spectators, 2 vols. Life of Grillon, 2 vols. Lady's Miſcellany, 2 vols. Accompliſhed Woman, 2 vols. Parquin, 2 vols. Love of Fame. Entertaining Inſtructor, French and Engliſh. Man of Real Senſibility. Whole Duty of Woman. Prayer Books neatly bound in Morocco, ditto plain. Dilworth's and Dyche's Spelling books. Writing paper, quills, ſealing wax, pewter and lead ink ſtands, black lead pencils, ſlates and pencils, Gunter's ſcales, letter ſiles and caſes, ink powder, ivory pounce boxes, &c. &c.

WANTED, all ſorts of HOUSE FURNITURE, tables, chairs, drawers, beds, &c. &c. &c. Alſo a complete ſet of CHINA. Inquire of the printer.

WANTED to rent, and enter on immediately, a COUNTRY SEAT, with a commodious houſe, garden, and land. The houſe muſt have plenty of good water. Inquire of the printer.

FIVE POUNDS reward. Stolen, or ſlipped their halters, out of the ſtable at the ſign of the George in Second and Arch ſtreets, two HORSES, the one a dark bay, about three years old, hath a ſaddle mark of few white hairs his back, and is about eleven hands high. The other is of a mouſe colour, hath a black ſtroke all along his back to his tail, his firſt joint of his near hind leg white, a ſtar in his forehead, a little lump on the near ſide right under the ſaddle, fifteen hands high, and about eight years old.

Whoever brings ſaid horſes to the ſubſcriber, ſhall have the above reward, or FIFTY SHILLINGS for each, and no queſtions aſked.

July 16. WILLIAM GRINDING.

IN CONGRESS, July 18, 1778.

A LETTER ſigned Carliſle, H. Clinton, Wm. Eden, Geo. Johnſtone, dated New-York, July 11, 1778, and directed "To his excellency Henry Laurens, the preſident, and other the members of congreſs," was received and read, whereupon congreſs came to the following reſolution.

Whereas congreſs, in a letter to the Britiſh commiſſioners of the 17th of June laſt, did declare that they would be ready to enter upon the conſideration of a treaty of peace and commerce, not inconſiſtent with treaties already ſubſiſting, when the king of Great-Britain would demonſtrate a ſincere diſpoſition for that purpoſe; and that the only ſolid proof of this diſpoſition would be an explicit acknowledgment of the independence of theſe ſtates, or withdrawing his fleets and armies; and whereas neither of theſe alternatives have been complied with, therefore

Reſolved, That no anſwer be given to the letter of the 11th inſtant from the Britiſh commiſſioners.

Ordered, That the ſaid letter and the foregoing reſolution be publiſhed. Extract from the minutes,

CHARLES THOMPSON, Secretary.

The letter from the Britiſh commiſſioners is as follows.

To his excellency Henry Laurens, the preſident, and other the members of congreſs.

Gentlemen,

WE received ſoon after our arrival at this place, your anſwer to our letter of the tenth of June, and are ſorry to find on your part any difficulties raiſed which muſt prolong the calamities of the preſent war.

You propoſe to us as matter of choice one or other of two alternatives, which you ſtate as preliminaries neceſſary even to the beginning of a negociation for peace to this empire.

One is an explicit acknowledgement of the independence of theſe ſtates. We are not inclined to diſpute with you about the meaning of words; but ſo far as you mean the intire privilege of the people of North America to diſpoſe of their property, and to govern themſelves without any reference to Great Britain, beyond what is neceſſary to preſerve that union of force, in which our mutual ſafety and advantage conſiſt: We think, that ſo far their independency is fully acknowledged in the terms of our letter of the 10th of June. And we are willing to enter upon a fair diſcuſſion with you, of all the circumſtances that may be neceſſary to enſure or even to enlarge that independence.

In the other alternative you propoſe, that his majeſty ſhould withdraw his fleets and his armies.

Although we have no doubt of his Majeſty's diſpoſition to remove every ſubject of uneaſineſs from the colonies, yet there are circumſtances of precaution againſt our antient enemies, which joined to the regard that muſt be paid to the ſafety of many, who, from affection to Great-Britain, have expoſed themſelves to ſuffer in this conteſt, and, to whom Great Britain owes ſupport at every expence of blood and treaſure, that will not allow us to begin with this meaſure. How ſoon it may follow the firſt advances to peace on your part, will depend on the favourable proſpect you give of a reconciliation with your fellow citizens of this continent, and with thoſe in Britain. In the mean time we aſſure you that no circumſtance will give us more ſatisfaction, than to find that the extent of our future connection is to be determined on principles of mere reaſon and the conſiderations of mutual intereſt, on which we are willing likewiſe to reſt the permanency of any arrangements we may form.

In making theſe declarations we do not wait for the deciſion of any military events. Having determined our judgement by what we believe to be the intereſts of our country, we ſhall abide by the declarations we now make in every poſſible ſituation of our affairs.

You refer to treaties already ſubſiſting, but are pleaſed to withhold from us any particular information in reſpect to their nature or tendency.

If they are in any degree to affect our deliberations, we think that you cannot refuſe a full communication of the particulars in which they conſiſt, both for our conſideration and that of your own conſtituents, who are to judge between us whether any alliance you may have contracted be a ſufficient reaſon for continuing this unnatural war. We likewiſe think ourſelves entitled to a full communication of the powers by which you conceive yourſelves authorized to make treaties with foreign nations.

And we are led to aſk ſatisfaction on this point, becauſe we have obſerved in our propoſed articles of conſideration, No. 6 and 9, it is ſtated that you ſhould have the power of entering into treaties and alliances under certain reſtrictions therein ſpecified, yet we do not find promulgated any act or reſolution of the aſſemblies of particular ſtates conferring this power on you.

As we have communicated our powers to you, we mean to proceed without reſerve in this buſineſs, we will not ſuppoſe that any objection can ariſe on your part to our communicating to the public ſo much of your correſpondence as may be neceſſary to explain our own proceedings. At the ſame time we aſſure you, that in all ſuch publications, the reſpect which we pay to the great body of people you are ſuppoſed to repreſent, ſhall be evidenced by us in every poſſible mark of conſideration and regard.—We are, with perfect reſpect, gentlemen, your moſt obedient and moſt humble ſervants,

CARLISLE, H. CLINTON, WM. EDEN, GEO. JOHNSTONE.

New-York, July 11th, 1778.

Publiſhed by order of congreſs,

CHARLES THOMSON, ſecretary.

In CONGRESS, July 9, 1778.

Ordered, That all letters received by members of congreſs from any of the Britiſh commiſſioners, or their agents, or from any ſubjects of the king of Great-Britain, of a public nature, be laid before congreſs. Extract from the minutes,

CHARLES THOMSON, ſecretary.

In conſequence of the foregoing order the following letters were laid before congreſs.

To FRANCIS DANA, eſq; (Private.)

Dear Sir,

IT gives me great pleaſure to find your name among the liſt of congreſs, becauſe I am perſuaded, from perſonal knowledge of me and my family and connections, you can entertain no jealouſy that I would engage in the execution of any commiſſion that was inimicable to the rights and privileges of America, or the general liberties of mankind. While on the other hand your character muſt be ſo well known, that no man will ſuſpect you will yield any point that is contrary to the real intereſt of your country, and therefore it will be preſumed we will loſe no opportunity from falſe punctilio of meeting to diſcuſs our differences fairly, and that if we do agree, it will be on the moſt liberal, and therefore the moſt laſting terms of union. There are three facts I wiſh to aſſure you of. Firſt, that doctor Franklin, on the twenty-ninth of March laſt, in diſcuſſing the ſeveral articles we wiſh to make the baſis of our treaty, was perfectly ſatisfied they were beneficial to North America, and ſuch as ſhe ſhould accept. Second, that this treaty with France was not the firſt treaty that France had exacted, and with which Mr. Simeon Deane had

put to ſea, but granted and acceded to after the ſentiments of the people of Great Britain had fully changed, after the friends to America had gained theſe points for reconciliation, and ſolely with a view to diſappoint the good effects of our endeavors. You will be pleaſed to hear the pamphlet wrote by mr. Pulteney was a great means of opening the minds of the people of England to the real ſtate of the queſtion between us, and that it has run through thirteen editions. The third fact is, that Spain, unaſked, had ſent a formal meſſage, diſapproving of the conduct of France. All theſe I will engage to prove to your ſatisfaction. I beg to recommend to your perſonal civilities my friend doctor Ferguſon. He is a man of the greateſt genius and virtue, and has always been a ſteady friend to America.———Private . . . . . .
. . . . . .
. . . . . .

If you follow the example of Britain in the hour of her pride, inſolence and madneſs, and refuſe to hear us, I ſtill expect, ſince I am here, to have the privilege of coming among you and ſeeing the country, as there are many men whoſe virtues I admire above Greek or Roman names, that I ſhould be glad to tell my children about. I am, with eſteem and affection, dear ſir, your friend and ſervant,

Philadelphia, June 10, 1778. GEO. JOHNSTONE.

A true copy compared with the original.

Examined in congreſs, July 16, 1778.

CHARLES THOMSON, ſecretary.

To GENERAL JOSEPH REED.

Sir,

YOur near and worthy relation, Mr. Dennis De Berdt, has made me happy by favoring me with a letter to you. I have been informed by gen. Robertſon of your great worth and conſequence in the unhappy diſputes that have ſubſiſted between Great Britain and her deſcendants. Your pen and your ſword have both been uſed with glory and advantage in vindicating the rights of mankind, and of that community of which you was a part. Such a conduct as the firſt, and ſuperior of all human duties, muſt ever command my warmeſt friendſhip and veneration.

In the midſt of thoſe affecting ſcenes, my feeble voice has not been wanting to ſtop the evils in their progreſs, and to remove, on a large and liberal footing, the cauſes of all jealouſy—that every ſubject of the empire might live equally free and ſecure in the enjoyment of the bleſſings of life—not one part dependent on the will of another, with oppoſite intereſts, but a general union on terms of perfect ſecurity and mutual advantage.

During the conteſt, I am free to confeſs my wiſhes have ever been that America might ſo far pervail as to oblige this country to ſee their error, and to reflect and reaſon fairly in the caſe of others, heirs to the ſame privileges with themſelves. It has pleaſed God, in his juſtice, ſo to diſpoſe of events that this kingdom is at length convinced of her folly and her faults. A commiſſion under parliamentary authority is now iſſued for ſettling, in a manner conſiſtent with that union of force on which the ſafety of both parties depend, all the differences that have or can ſubſiſt between Great Britain and America, ſhort of a total ſeparation of intereſts. In this commiſſion I am an unworthy aſſociate, though no man can feel the deſire of cementing, in peace and friendſhip, every member of what was called the Britiſh empire ſtronger than myſelf, yet I am ſenſible it might have fallen to the lot of many perſons better qualified to obtain the end propoſed. All I can claim is ardent zeal and upright intentions; and when I reflect that this negotiation muſt depend much more upon perfect integrity than refinement of underſtanding, where a ſenſible, magnanimous people will ſee their own intereſt, and carefully guard their own honor in every tranſaction, I am more inclined to hope, from the good will I have always borne them, I am not altogether unqualified for the taſk.

If it be (as I hope it is) the diſpoſition of good men in the provinces to prefer freedom in conjunction with Great Britain to an union with the antient enemy of both—If it is their generous inclination to forget recent injuries, and recal to their remembrance former benefits, I am in hopes we may yet be great and happy. I am ſure the people in America will find in my brother commiſſioners and myſelf, a a fair and cheerful concurrence in adjuſting every point to their utmoſt wiſh, not inconſiſtent, as I ſaid before, with a beneficial union of intereſts, which is the object of our commiſſion.

Nothing could ſurpaſs the glory you have acquired in arms, except the generous magnanimity of meeting on the terms of juſtice and equality, after demonſtrating to the world that the fear of force could have no influence in that deciſion.

The man who can be inſtrumental in bringing us all to act once more in harmony, and to unite together the various powers which this conteſt has drawn forth, will deſerve more from the king * and the people, from patriotiſm, humanity, friendſhip, and all the tender ties that are affected by the quarrel and reconciliation, than ever was yet beſtowed on human kind.

This letter from mr. De Berdt I ſhall conſider as an introduction to you, which line of communication I ſhall endeavour by every means to improve by public demonſtration of reſpect or private friendſhip, as our anſwer may enable me. I am, with great reſpect, ſir, your moſt obedient and moſt humble ſervant, GEO. JOHNSTONE.

London, 11th April, 1778.

To ROBERT MORRIS, eſq; [Private.]

Dear Sir, Philadelphia, June 16, 1778.

I CAME to this country in a ſincere belief that a reconciliation between Great-Britain and America could be eſtabliſhed on terms honorable and beneficial to both. I am

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* A member of congreſs, who was with the army at the time of the evacuation of this city, and entered it immediately after, received a billet from a lady, ſome of whoſe friends had gone off with the enemy, praying the pleaſure of his company. After ſome converſation about them, and the neceſſary introductory converſation, ſhe told him, in plain terms, on the part of the writer of this letter, that if he would uſe his good offices in procuring a reconciliation, he ſhould have ten thouſand guineas, and any honors or offices he could aſk from a grateful ſovereign, hinting at the ſame time that an anſwer was expected. To which the gentleman replied, That he was not worth purchaſing; but even if he was, the king was too poor to buy him. From this anecdote we learn, that ſo much of what was ſaid to the court of France as related to the ſending over money was true, though it ſeems the price was not, as they pretended, actually ſtipulated, for which the members of the congreſs were to ſell their country and their ſouls. I cannot help remarking that corruption muſt have proſtrated the hearts and underſtandings of the Britiſh leaders below contempt, or they never would have dared thus to riſque every thing upon the wholeſale purchaſe of a body whoſe authority, being derived from the people, will crumble to pieces the inſtant they vary from the popular opinion.

perſuaded and can prove that the laſt treaty with France ſhould be no bar, and the firſt treaty, if ever you ſaw it, ſhould be an inducement—Suppoſing every obſtacle to prevent us from treating removed, we are then to conſider whether the terms propoſed are advantageous. I incloſe you my ſentiments on the ſubject at large; if they concur with yours, we ſhall join in the work with all the prudence and all the means poſſible and virtuous. I believe the men who have conducted the affairs of America uncapable of being influenced by improper motives. But in all ſuch tranſactions there is riſk, and I think that whoever ventures ſhould be ſecured, at the ſame time that honour and emolument ſhould naturally follow the fortune of thoſe who have ſteered the veſſel in the ſtorm, and brought her ſafely to port. I think Waſhington and the preſident have a right to every favour that grateful nations can beſtow, if they could once more unite our intereſt, and ſpare the miſeries and devaſtations of war. I wiſh above all things to ſee you, and I hope you will ſo contrive it. Do not think Great-Britain is ſo low; remember ſhe never can be lower than you were at Trenton. It is the ſame blunderers who produced the war, who have conducted it. When the ſenſe of the nation is rouſed, believe me ſhe can make ſtruggles that few have conceived, but which I ſhould be ſorry to ſee exerted on ſuch an occaſion.

Whatever may be our fate, I ſhall ever retain the ſtricteſt private friendſhip for you and yours; but let me entreat you to recal all thoſe endearing ties to your recollection. I am, with affection and eſteem, dear ſir, your obedient ſervant,

GEO. JOHNSTONE.

Publiſhed by order of congreſs,

CHARLES THOMPSON, Secretary.

☞ The letters ſigned an American, and W. H. D. will be inſerted as ſoon as poſſible.

LONDON, May 7. The admirals Byron and Hyde Parker are to command the diviſion of the fleet deſtined for North-America. If D'Eſtaing is gone to that part of the world, and it is generally admitted and believed that he is, he is more than half way there by this time.—Inſtead of ſailing, our fleet has been kept at Spithead, to be reviewed by his majeſty.

The king of France has given poſitive orders that no ſtrangers whatever ſhall in future have acceſs to his perſon. No reaſon is announced for the above mandate.

As the orders of council for ſending a fleet after monſieur D'Eſtaing paſſed through the office of lord George Germaine, it is evident that the Toulon fleet is gone to America.—Alas, poor Howes! To what a perilous ſituation has an ignorant miniſtry reduced you.

Almoſt all the public prints mention there being forty-two ſail of the line at Spithead, beſides half a dozen frigates. In fact there are no more that thirty-two ſhips of the line, and three frigates.

Neither is there any diviſion relative to gen. Waſhington, which hath been alſo given out by the ſame people. Theſe are ſilly tales, and look like drowning men catching at twigs. General Waſhington has the ſupreme command of the American army, and there is a thorough good underſtanding between him and the congreſs.

The reaſon aſſigned by the congreſs for recalling mr. Dean from Paris is, that they want his preſence to inform them exactly and fully of the ſtate of things in Europe at this very critical period. The French king, as a mark of his particular eſteem for Mr. Deane, has given him a box of great value and exquiſite workmanſhip, with his picture richly ſet in diamonds, and given him a letter written in his own hand to the congreſs, ſtrongly teſtifying his intire approbation of mr. Deane's conduct of the treaty lately concluded with America, and of his inviolable attachment to the letter and ſpirit of that treaty, which he ſhall ever hold ſacred, and nothing ſhall be wanting on his part to eſtabliſh and complete the mutual advantages of it to both countries.

9. No reinforcements have been ſent, nor are to be ſent, to the armies at Philadelphia, and New-York. General Howe's army have been repeatedly aſſured, that at leaſt twenty thouſand men will arrive by the firſt week in May. How great will be their diſappointment, when they find they have been deceived. A wiſe miniſter would either have reinforced or recalled theſe brave troops. They are too few to be of any real ſervice there, and too many, and too valuable, to be loſt; which it is feared will be the caſe, if count D'Eſtaing is gone to co-operate with gen. Waſhington.

If count D'Eſtaing is gone to North-America, as is generally ſuppoſed, he will find our fleet there an eaſy conqueſt. Lord Howe has no more than three ſhips of the line; and as to his frigates, there are but few. No leſs than forty of his frigates have been recalled, by orders which went from hence about a month ago. This ſhews what blunderers our miniſters are. Inſtead of ſtrengthening the fleet in North-America, they have weakened it. The guards were alſo recalled, at the ſame time.

In all the ſeaports of France public notices are poſted up that convoys will be appointed in the month of June next, and regularly afterwards, for all ſuch ſhips as are bound to any port of the dominions of the independent ſtates of America. This places it beyond a doubt that the French court mean to protect their trade to the utmoſt.

The emoluments of the American commiſſioners are as follow:—1000 l. each for a ſervice of plate;—5000 l. each for ſea ſtores, &c and 100 l. each per week ſalary, except Lord Carliſle, the preſident, who has thrice that ſum.

COACH. One to be SOLD, which lets down all round, and has glaſſes in front and at the ſides. Inquire of the printer.

TO be ſold by the ſubſcriber, a two ſtory BRICK HOUSE, the fourth bank houſe below Market-ſtreet, in Front-ſtreet, next door to Benjamin Towne printer, and oppoſite to mr. Andrew Caldwell's in Water-ſtreet.

July 9. WILLIAM HENRY.

WANTS a place as HOUSEKEEPER, a woman who is capable of her buſineſs, underſtands marketing, and can be well recommended. Inquire of the printer.

TO the CURIOUS and LEARNED. Thoſe ladies and gentlemen who deſire to learn French, may, in the ſpace of three months, be completed in that language by Francis Johnſon, Profeſſor of Languages, at Mr. Howard's, watchmaker, between Market and Cheſnut ſtreets, in Second-ſtreet. Attendance will be given at their apartments, or at his lodgings, at eight o'clock in the morning, and four in the afternoon. His price is ſixteen dollars a month, and eight dollars entrance.

Tous ces meſſieurs qui veulent apprendre l'Anglois, et qui ont deja appris le Francois, l'Italien, ou l'Espagnol, par principes, peuvent acquerir une connoiſſance parfaite de cette langue, en trois mois, en s'addreſſant a Mr. Johnſon, Maitre de Langues, chez Mr. Howard, horloger, dans la Seconde rue, entre la rue du Marché et la rue des Chataignes. Son prix eſt ſeize piaſtres par mois, et huiten entrant.

PHILADELPHIA: Printed by BENJAMIN TOWNE.